

Report of Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2005

Teton Soil Conservation District

Address PO Box 87
Driggs, Idaho 83422

Telephone Number (208) 354-2680 ext.3

Point of Contact J. Lynn Bagley, Chairman

Counties Served Teton

Legislative District(s) 31



Mission of the Teton Soil Conservation District

The Teton Soil Conservation District's (SCD) mission is to work with willing landowners to reduce soil erosion, protect water quality, improve air quality, and improve fish and wildlife habitat. They do this through the coordination of technical assistance through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and financial and educational assistance to landowners.

Natural Resource Improvements Summary

- The NRCS developed 20 contracts in the EQIP and WHIP programs covering 3,026 acres to install fences, enhance wildlife habitat, improve pasture management, grass planting, enhance and repair degraded stream channels. They planned and implemented 11 CRP contracts covering 1394 acres. Twenty-three additional applications were processed for EQIP, WHIP, and GRP.
- Two stream restoration projects were installed during the year. Little Pine Creek and Teton Creek were nearly completed this Spring. Teton Creek is a critical trout habitat and spawning area, but passage was impossible due to a log jam 1/8 mile long. (see side photo of before /after). A cooperative effort assisted the landowner to remove 85 truck loads of woody debris and 65 truck loads of rock from the stream channel. More work is needed but the stream is now flowing in the original channel.
- The Teton Area Soil Survey team continues to update the old 1960's version of the survey. They are working with landowners to do on-site soil tests, correct errors, and improve wetland data missing from the previous survey.
- Preliminary meeting held with the NRCS and Grand Targhee Resort to install a high altitude snowtel site.



Conservation District Priority # 1 – Water Quality and Quantity

- The Upper Teton River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan was completed in April 2005. The plan identifies and recommends best management practices to address pollutants identified to meet the TMDL targets on the Teton River and tributaries.
- The Upper Teton Water Quality Monitoring Program wrapped up in April with their final report of water quality data that identifies potential pollutant sources and quantifies pollutant concentration on tributaries of the Teton River.
- The Teton River Water Quality Program for Agriculture was completed this year with the last contract installing 713 feet of water and sediment basins and 950 feet of terraces (see photo at top). Since the program began in 1991, the Teton River and Bitch Creek watersheds treated 12,742 critical acres of cropland with best management practices to protect water quality in a portion of the Teton River and Horseshoe, Packsaddle, Badger, Swanner, and Bitch Creeks drainages.

Conservation District Priority #2 – Vegetative Management

- The Windbreak tree and shrub program was successful with 2984 trees and 9750 linear feet of fabric mulch sold in the program this year. Since 1982 when the program began, 69,137 trees have been planted in Teton County.
- The Teton SCD informed landowners of the threat of noxious weeds through the distribution of noxious weed books and information provided at the Teton County Fair.
- An Eagle Scout candidate, John Beard, improved the Grass and Windbreak Tree demonstration plot by repairing and maintaining the fence, sign and weed control. As a result of this group effort, the demo plot is now a visual resource for improved grass species adapted to the Teton Basin climate.

Conservation District Priority # 3 - District Operations

- Teton SCD applied for and was granted an NRCS administrative assistance grant to provide assistance with the EQIP program. Teton SCD staff provided assistance in Toolkit, filing, EQIP and WHIP assistance.
- Teton SCD attended meetings pertinent to District programs including: NACD, IASCD division and state meetings; monthly meetings; meetings with the County Commissioners; and locally led conservation meetings.
- Teton SCD pays dues to conservation organizations and associations including: NACD, IASCD, IASCD - Division VI, IDEA, and RC&D.
- Teton SCD offers rental of gopher control equipment and sale of non-restricted bait to control rodents that destroy trees and cropland.

Information & Education/ Public Outreach

- Teton SCD sponsored a booth at the Teton County Fair featuring 'backyard conservation,' which showcased best management practices that landowners can do to improve their environment and conserve resources.
- Teton SCD sponsored a team from Teton High School's Environmental Science class to participate in the Idaho Envirothon. They won the 'Rookie Award' for most points of a new team.
- Teton SCD sponsored a local landowner, Gary Zohner, to attend the STEEP conservation tillage conference. This conference will educate landowners of the benefits of conservation tillage to improve water quality near the Teton River.
- Teton SCD sponsored a poster contest featuring the theme 'celebrate conservation.' Nearly 200 local 5th and 6th grade students participated in March. In October 2004, two of the student poster from last year won the Division VI contest and went on to compete at the state level in November 2004. Kaitlin Kerr's poster won the state contest and went on to the national competition in February.
- Teton SCD nominated Darwin Josephson and Steve Ray for awards at the IASCD convention in November. Two prestigious awards were presented. Darwin was awarded the Doyle Scott award and Steve was awarded the RN Irving award. We are proud of these two selfless conservationists and the awards they received.
- Brad Duncan, NRCS soil scientist, presented the local 6th grade students with information regarding soils at a field trip in May at the Teton County Fairgrounds.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- A cooperative effort was used to test and determine a source of e-coli bacteria on Woods Creek. These meetings and efforts were coordinated with Friends of Teton River, NRCS, DEQ and Teton SCD. (Water Quality priority)
- Cooperative efforts completed the Teton Creek restoration work (as caption in 1st page photo). The Teton Regional Land Trust, NRCS, Teton SCD and a private group 'One Fish' assisted in the effort. (NRCS summary)
- Teton SCD assisted the Teton Regional Land Trust in partnership of a NAWCCA wetland grant. The partnership makes available \$25,000.00 for waterfowl projects identified by Teton SCD. (Water Quality Priority)
- Two meeting held: 1) A cooperative effort between NRCS Water Supply forecasters, Teton SCD and the Friends of the Teton River. The meeting was entitled: "How much water do we have?" over 20 people attended. 2) Over 60 people attended the IASCD – Division VI meeting regarding the Nez Perce Agreement. Teton SCD staff and Darwin Josephson, director, coordinated the meeting with the Farm Bureau and Water Law advisors. (Water Quantity Priority)

Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners – The following graph provides funds in Teton County from all sources including: Teton SCD, USDA - NRCS, USDA-FSA to plan, design and implement BMPs to protect, enhance, and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funded Amount
State Of Idaho	Teton Soil Conservation District Operations	11,015.30
Teton County	Teton Soil Conservation District Operations	4,815.00
NRCS Admin Grant (EQIP)	EQIP Administrative Assistance	9,839.00
Water Quality Program for Ag.	BMPs to improve Water Quality	6,407.28
USDA Farm Programs	Conservation practices in WHIP and EQIP contracts	373,961.00
USDA Farm Programs	CRP annual payments in 11 new contracts	45,154.00
TOTAL		451,951.58